THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, Auguſt 27, 1804.

Account of the preſent State of the Colony of Sierra Leone.

A More benevolent enterprize than the eſtabliſhment of the Britiſh colony of Sierra Leone, for the civilization of natives of Africa in a ſtate of liberty, was never undertaken by any people.

It was attempted under many diſadvantages. Perhaps, not the leaſt of theſe, was that enthuſiaſm of freedom and philanthropy in which thoſe excellent men, who were its chief promoters, hoped to impart the bleſſings of civilization to a race, once treated almoſt as brutes utterly incapable of it, without ſubjecting them to thoſe reſtraints which are the moſt painful to barbarian and ſavage natures, but, wanting which, there are no inſtances of barbarian ferocity having been effectually ſubdued, or of habits of moral order and induſtry thoroughly acquired.

The laſt and the preſent war, by ſubjecting the ſhips and cargoes of the Sierra Leone to capture at ſea, have conſiderably enhanced the difficulties of foſtering this colonial eſtabliſhment.—Moſt enemies would have gloried to ſpare ſuch a ſettlement as that of Sierra Leone, even all the havoc and ravages of war; but the French took a wanton pleaſure in endeavouring to deſtroy a colony in the proſperity of which all civilized humanity appeared to have a ſtrong intereſt. The Britiſh dealers in African ſlaves, too, were, of courſe, no friends to an eſtabliſhment intended to ſhew, that the negroes were capable of learning habits of induſtry and order, without being reduced to ſervitude.

The African princes, who ſold their captives of war and even their ſubjects into ſlavery, were peculiarly adverſe to a ſyſtem which threatened them, in the end, with the loſs of all their cuſ-

tomers in that traffic. Beſides, the ſettlement and rearing of an infant colony can never be from the very firſt a profitable mercantile undertaking, nor is ever to be accompliſhed without a ſtruggle with many difficulties, and a conſiderable waſte of lives and other expence.

The original capital of the company was 230,000l. ſterling. They had entered upon their undertaking about one year before the commencement of the laſt war. In the firſt inſtance, they had intended little more than to eſtabliſh a ſecure factory for peaceable and honourable trade with the native Africans of the regions adjacent to Sierra Leone. They were, however, ſoon induced to offer ſettlements at the ſame place to nearly 1200 free blacks from Nova Scotia, perſons who had gained their freedom by taking part with Great Britain in the American war. Great inconvenience began, ſoon after, to ariſe from the company's want of an authority adequate to the controul of thoſe free blacks. They landed at Sierra Leone, in the year 1792; but, epidemic ſickneſs, the periodical rains, and the characteriſtic idleneſs and turbulence of thoſe people, hindered them, for ſome time, from doing any thing conſiderable in the cultivation of the lots of land which the company aſſigned to them. The company cultivated, with better ſucceſs, a plantation of their own, and a garden of experiments, in which their chief object was to provide ſeeds and plants for the ſettlers.

In 1794, they opened an intercourſe with the Foulahs, an inland people conſiderably civilized; and with a view to future commerce with that nation, endeavoured to eſtabliſh a factory on the higher part of the river, which they were afterwards obliged to abandon. That ſame year the company loſt, upon the taking of the ſettlement by a French ſquadron, property to the value of 52,000l. ſterling. Within two years from the commencement of the undertaking, they had expended upon it not leſs than 110,000l.

In 1798, there was a town called Freetown, conſiſting of about 300 houſes, and many public buildings. There were three wharfs. The government-houſe ſituate ſo as to command the town and harbour, was protected by a paliſade, and by ſix pieces of cannon. The inhabitants of the colony were about 1200, of theſe, 15 were ſhopkeepers, 20 or 25 fiſhermen, 10 or 15 trading ſhip-maſters, owners of ſmall veſſels, 12 or 15 ſeamen, 20 labourers employed by the company, 4 ſchoolmaſters; about one half of the whole population petty farmers, the reſt mechanics. The number of the Europeans reſident in the colony, was from 20 to 30. About 300 or 400 free natives wrought as labourers, for wages, on the farms in the colony. Theſe native labourers had the merit of expending ſcarce any part of their wages in the purchaſe of ſpirituous liquors. Between 100 and 200 of the natives came daily to Freetown, to exchange articles of African

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produce for Britiſh manufactures. Many of theſe came in canoes, from a diſtance of between 80 and 100 miles.

In 1800, to controul the turbulence of the blacks from Nova Scotia, a charter of juſtice was obtained; and a ſmall military force from Goree was ſtationed at Sierra Leone. Seven thouſand pounds were allotted by parliament to the company for the erection of a fort: and 8000l. more were promiſed for the ſame uſe. Government, about the ſame time, paid 10,000l. to the company for their expence in ſettling the blacks from Nova Scotia. And 4000l. were, alſo, voted by parliament in ſupport of the civil government of the colony.

About the ſame time, the directors of the company's affairs, upon a propoſition from his grace the duke of Portland, then ſecretary of ſtate, agreed to receive into the colony the maroons from the iſland of Jamaica. They had a promiſe from government of an allowance to defray the expence of ſettling the maroons in Africa: and they were encouraged to expect an increaſe of the ſum annually voted in parliament, equal to the expence which government would, by this arrangement, be relieved from, on account of the maroons ſeparately. The maroons arrived ſeaſonably, in the month of October, 1800. Their aſſiſtance was then of great uſe, to quell an inſurrection of the Nova Scotia blacks, who had endeavoured to ſeize the government of the colony. Of the inſurgents, three were killed in the conteſt; many were taken, and brought to trial; three were condemned to death, and executed; ſeveral were baniſhed; ſome of the ringleaders eſcaped, among the natives, into the interior of the country.

After theſe events, it was thought that moſt of the primary difficulties had been ſurmounted; but, whether excited by the runaway inſurgents, and by the dealers in the ſlave-trade, or hoping to ſeize and divide the whole goods of the coloniſts, as a ſpoil, or fearing a project of ambition in the Engliſh to extend their dominion wide over the inland country, a body of natives of the Timmaney, led on by two of the fugitive inſurgents, made an attack about day-break, on the 18th of November, 1801, on the unfiniſhed fort, within which the government-houſe was ſituate. They were repulſed, not without ſome loſs of lives on both ſides. They were afterwards compelled to retire from a ſituation which they had occupied, in the immediate neighbourhood of the colony. A truce was concluded; but it was believed that the Timmaney chiefs would employ this interval in endeavours to form a more extenſive alliance of the natives, wholly to expel the Engliſh ſettlers from that part of Africa.

Sixty-five ſoldiers were brought from Goree, and a ſhip of war remained in the river, for the defence of the ſettlement: but, in the mean time, trade and cultivation were almoſt wholly

interrupted. It became unſafe for the coloniſts to venture out to any diſtance beyond the near vicinity of Freetown; and in their indolence and deſpondency, the people of that place began to wiſh and expect that the colony would be abandoned.

In 1802, parliament again voted 10,000l. to the company, for the neceſſary annual expence of the ſettlement. It was exactly at this ſum, that the expence had been eſtimated by the directors. In February, 1803, it was intimated to the directors, as the opinion of Lord Hobart, that it would be for the advantage of the colony, that the civil and military power ſhould be entirely transferred from the company to the Britiſh government. The directors, upon this, came to a pauſe in their undertakings, for the neceſſary government and ſupplies.

The Britiſh government had ſent out Captain Hallowell to make certain inveſtigations reſpecting the condition of the ſettlement; and, till his report ſhould be received, were unwilling either to accept the ſurrender of the company's civil and military powers, or to procure the renewal of the yearly grant from parliament,

But, in February, 1803, Captain Day arrived from England to aſſume by the company's appointment, the direction of the affairs of the colony. He immediately formed a militia of 270 men; erected blockhouſes for temporary defence; began a ſtone wall, conſtructed to give permanent defence againſt any attempts of the natives, and to reſiſt cannon pointed againſt it from the ſea; raiſed a battery of eight guns on a point of land commanding the bay and the ſhipping in the harbour; and ſo re-animated the ſpirit of the coloniſts, that cultivation began to be reſumed.

Captain Hallowell had arrived at Sierra Leone, on the 12th of January, 1803. He found the colony in a ſituation of extreme wretchedneſs. During the ſtay of about a fortnight, he made the proper enquiries with great diligence; but he ſeems to have, too ſoon and too eagerly, embraced an opinion that the ſettlement ought to be abandoned. He reported to government, at his return, that the maroons were diſſatisfied with their ſituation, as one in which they could not poſſibly find ſubſiſtence; that they could not raiſe yams nor corn, on account of the ravages of an inſect which they named the bug-a-bug; that proviſions of all ſorts were exceſſively ſcarce and dear; that there were few veſtiges of cultivation in the very environs of Freetown; that its inhabitants, and all the colony lived in almoſt hourly terror and danger from the hoſtilities of the natives; that the whole body of the coloniſts lived in extreme deſpondency as to their ſituation, and expected that it would be ſoon entirely abandoned. His information as to the poſſibilities of trade, fortification, and culture, tended all to repreſent the ſettlement, as not worthy to be kept.

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The explanations of the directors and their ſervants, have ſince ſatisfied government, that, at Sierra Leone, Captain Hallowell had viewed things in a light ſomewhat too unfavourable. It has been found alſo, that the blacks from Nova Scotia, and the maroons, could not, in good faith, be entirely abandoned by the Britiſh government, and would in any other ſituation occaſion an expence to it, perhaps greater than may be ſufficient to preſerve and reſtore the colony of Sierra Leone. Expectations are alſo indulged, that, upon the entire abolition of the ſlave-trade, the colony may ſoon obtain a flouriſhing trade with the natives, in the exchange of Britiſh manufactures for the raw produce of the inland parts of Africa.

Upon theſe conſiderations, the ſettlement is not to be abandoned; and its civil and military authorities are to be, in future, under the immediate adminiſtration of the Britiſh government.

Upon the moſt favourable eſtimate that can be made, the company does not now poſſeſs in England, value above the amount of 72371. 6s. 9d. Hence, what they have at Sierra Leone would prove of little uſe, ſhould the ſettlement be abandoned.

ON DELICACY.

THE preſent age may, beyond a doubt, boaſt of remarkable refinement; for we may conclude that there never was a period when ruſticity was more removed from our kingdom. All ranks and degrees of men, except the dregs of ſociety, appear deſirous to poliſh their manners, and render themſelves reſpectable in their behaviour in life. We may conſider polite literature as productive of theſe beneficial effects, and that thirſt of knowledge ſo predominant in the preſent day. Though this is the caſe in general, yet we have to lament the want of delicacy in individuals, and a certain ruſticity of manners peculiar to uncivilized ages. Ruſticus profeſſedly knows good breeding, yet, in his common behaviour, he is very offenſive. He frequently puts modeſt worth to the bluſh, and yet appears unconſcious of it. His words convey a meaning he never intended, and, when reproved, he ſays, ſmiling, "I never deſigned to give offence; if you will be offended, I cannot help it." Thus, being uncouth in his manners, he creates many enemies. His friends approve of many things, as excellent, in his behaviour; yet they leave his company with regret, thinking on ſomething he hinted at in an ambiguous manner. As he is engaged in buſineſs, his commercial connections do find themſelves at times peculiarly hurt. He is not tender of the reputation of others, though he ſays that he is very cautious of raiſing reports. In fine, he is ſhunned in ſociety, as his ſarcaſtic reflections have proved very injurious. It ſeems ſurpriſing that, from paſt experience,

perience, he is not more on his guard; but he ſays, "It is my way, and I cannot alter it." Even ſtrangers ſuffer from his want of delicacy. He takes as much liberty with them at the firſt interview, as if he had known them for ſome time; and if their feelings appear to be hurt, he is offended, though he is himſelf the cauſe of the offence. Thus, for want of caution, ſociety imperceptibly ſuffers.

Delicacy is not only neceſſary in our behaviour in life, but likewiſe in our dreſs and furniture. In our appearance, reſpect is generally had to decorum and taſte. If our dreſs be free from every thing that is immodeſt? If it be conſiſtent with our ſtation and circumſtances in the world?—theſe are common enquiries, and imply that mankind criticiſe on each other, and are convinced of what borders on indelicacy. In females, delicacy appears to be peculiarly needful; but it is to be lamented that proper attention is not paid to it. Their dreſs, for ſome time, has been indelicate, and offenſive to the ſtrictly modeſt: when this is the caſe, faſhion, however prevalent, ought to be laid aſide. Particular care ought to be paid to education, to check whatever is wrong, and to inculcate every thing that is modeſt.

There is a falſe delicacy which we ought to deteſt. It conſiſts in a certain affectation, free from true politeneſs, and appears in a ſtudied manner of expreſſion and behaviour. We refuſe to give eaſe to our manners, leſt we ſhould be indelicate. Our words muſt be preciſe to an extreme. We are afraid of ſpeaking, leſt we ſhould give offence. Even our health ſuffers, for it is wrong to complain; and when others would aſſiſt us, we will not make known our wants.

Where delicacy prevails, there will be a reſerve in our behaviour conſiſtent with good manners. We ſhall be afraid of hurting the feelings of others: we ſhall therefore think before we ſpeak, and conſider the reputation of others of equal importance with our own: we ſhall baniſh from our converſation the leaſt hint of indelicacy, and check whatever may endanger the welfare of ſociety. Timidus has not received a very liberal education, and yet he is to an eminent degree poſſeſſed of a refined delicacy. He is afraid of offending an old friend, and does all in his power to conciliate the eſteem of others. Though not rich, he is univerſally eſteemed. He is not ſingular in his expreſſions, yet they are free from cenſoriouſneſs. His furniture is not elegant, yet delicacy ſets it off to a peculiar advantage. Having been bleſſed with ſome accompliſhed daughters, he enforces the neceſſity of delicacy in their dreſs and behaviour, and will not permit them to follow any faſhion at the expence of modeſty. The more this excellent character is known, the more he is prized. His worth cannot be ſufficiently appreciated, for time does not alter his deportment.

If we wiſh to excel in life, let us cultivate the grace of delicacy: it will add a luſtre to every ſituation: when riches paſs from us, and human learning fails, we ſhall ſtill enjoy a bleſſing that will compenſate for the want of other accompliſhments, and embalm our tomb with fragrancy: it will endear us to all our ſurvivors, and make our names precious to poſterity.

T. M.

INSTANCES *of* RIDICULOUS PRIDE.

IN the country, where one ſhould naturally think univerſal communication and intelligence muſt be particularly deſirable, there is ſo much difficulty in ſettling place and precedency, that, ſo far from enjoying the comforts of ſociety, every thing ſociable is precluded. Satisfaction waits upon ceremony, and pleaſure is filtered through the medium of rules and orders. The community is divided into claſſes; thoſe who drive four horſes muſt not know thoſe who drive only a pair; a chariot muſt not condeſcend to viſit a gig or a whiſky; perſons of birth and fortune though ever ſo poor are above profeſſional men though ever ſo rich; profeſſional men, to keep up the comedy, look down upon tradeſmen; who, to make the entertainment complete by adding a farce, ſplit again into parties, and ſour the reliſh of their proper enjoyments by rancour and animoſity; and thus, by pulling different ways, they become what the wheels of a machine would be that, inſtead of revolving in appropriate directions and by general conſent, would not only run counter to the order in which alone they would have any uſeful operation, but be ſure to fret and tear each other to pieces; or like a conſtitution that rationally treated might have been ſound and hale; but, having been quacked, and tampered with, would become diſtorted, and tortured by a complication of diſorders.

Some author deſcribes the conduct of four perſons who went together to the Land's End in a ſtage coach. The firſt twenty miles they all ſpoke together; further on they were the beſt friends in the world, but were content with ſpeaking one at a time; by and by they all yawned; afterwards fell aſleep; and before they parted, heartily wiſhed one another at the devil. Now all this was natural enough, theſe people were never to meet again; but the firſt idea of ſettling in the country is a ſociable neighbourhood; and, as thoſe who are ſo ſituated muſt neceſſarily be near each other during a number of dull months, common policy would induce them one ſhould think to give and receive as much rational pleaſure as poſſible. But pride attends every ſituation in life. Mrs. Doubletripe, the cook, looks with contempt on the ſcullion; Mrs. Handy, my lady's maid, addreſſes Mrs. Doubletripe by the title of good woman; Mrs.

Cringe

Cringe, the toad-eater, ſneers ſuperciliouſly at Mrs. Handy; while ſhe in her turn is huffed and dinged about by my lady, and blamed for putting her out of humour, ſpoiling her complection, and loſing her lovers. A corporal is as proud of relieving a centinel as a general of commanding an army, and a ſtrolling actor is as much a monarch for the time being as the emperor of Germany.

In more than one place that I have viſited has this ridiculous pride thrown all degrees of the inhabitants into a ferment. I ſhall only give one inſtance, though it may ſerve to eſtabliſh this fact in more than fifty inſtances. At the place I allude to, the ladies of independent fortune had inſtituted an aſſembly. This of courſe gave umbrage to the major part of the place, who were therefore determined to form an aſſembly apart. Here for a ſhort time the matter reſted, and it muſt have been pleaſant enough to ſee the lower houſe muſter numerouſly, while the upper houſe could get nobody to attend it. At length this ſecond aſſembly began to divide. Miſs Latitat, the attorney's daughter, made Mrs. Friz, the barber's wife, no return to her curtſey; while Mrs. Phthiſic, the phyſician's lady, ſneered at the upſtart conſequence of Miſs Bumper, the innkeeper's daughter, and wondered that ſhe ſhould have the impudence to preſcribe rules of good-breeding to her.

A ſecond diviſion was the conſequence, and a third party formed, which out of deriſion was ſtigmatized with the title of the checked-apron aſſembly. Theſe meetings were ill attended, and produced nothing but envy, bickering, and diſcord, and, were a ſample of rational manners to have been taken from their conduct, it would give an idea that human beings were created to regard their own peace of mind only in proportion as they could undermine and deſtroy that of others, This kind of contemptible abſurdity had obtained to ſuch a ridiculous degree in one town that the perſons of diſtinction had the grace to ſee their own folly. It was however at the inſtance of a lady, then a counteſs, but ſince a dutcheſs, who with a complacency and condeſcenſion truly noble, headed the aſſembly, and diſpenſed her favours with ſo equal a hand, that nothing was univerſally felt but an emulation not to aſſume falſe conſequence, but to imitate true greatneſs.

There is one moſt intolerable folly which operates to the deſtruction of real comfort in the country, and this is an idea that men of ſuperior abilities are only born for the mere accommodation of thoſe who are ridiculouſly conſidered as their ſuperiors, as if birth and hereditary fortune were not infinitely beneath talents and genius; but this will infallibly be the caſe as long as true merit ſhall be allied to modeſty, and ignorance to arrogance. See with what coldneſs and contempt the inferior orders of the clergy are treated by thoſe on whom it is incumbent

to glow with gratitude and reſpect for the advantage they have received from ſuch leſſons of inſtruction as are not only the beſt clue to the diſcharge of their own duty, but the ſafe-guard and inſurance of the duty of their dependants. A gentleman's butler is permitted to conſider himſelf ſuperior to a country curate, who, poor man, may at his own election undergo every diſtreſſing humiliation or ſtarve with his family.

As to poets, painters, and others, they may, by way of courteſy, get an invitation to a ſecond table, and be called in occaſionally to amuſe the company, like a fidler at a country dance; but as to cheriſhing, feeling or acknowledging a diſtinction of abilities above their own, it would be conſidered as the height of impertinence were any one to ſuggeſt that any ſuch fact exiſts. I like Swift for nothing ſo much as conſidering it the moſt ineffable debaſement in men of fortune and worldly diſtinction to fancy for a ſingle moment that rank is not dignified by a communication with thoſe whoſe merit can adorn any ſituation, but to which the moſt exalted ſtate can never give creation. A perſon being aſked why men of genius are oftener ſeen at the doors of the rich than the rich at the doors of men of genius, aptly anſwered, that it was becauſe men of genius always feel the neceſſity of riches, but that the rich ſeldom feel the value of genius.

I agree that it is not poſſible, nor indeed would it be proper in any way for the high and low to meet familiarly in private. Fortune has ſet up a barrier which naturally precludes any ſuch communication; but this is no reaſon why the lower claſſes ſhould be conſidered as brutes, wretches, and the canaille, and it is particularly unjuſt when thoſe epithets are applied, as I know they ſometimes have been only an hour after ſome mean and paltry excuſe has been made for not diſcharging debts with which tradeſmen's books are loaded to the great detriment of their circumſtances. Nothing in the world is more common than for a tradeſman to put off a London correſpondent by aſſuring him that he has no money in his bureau, and the reaſon is that he dare not, for fear of being turned off, aſk the colonel, the baronet, her ladyſhip, or any others of his cuſtomers, for the ſmalleſt ſum, though many of them have had large debts upon his books for perhaps a twelve-month. How does this diſappointment operate? The tradeſman is obliged to give a large order, in which the traveller takes care to introduce ſuch unſaleable goods as he cannot palm off upon his more punctual cuſtomers; and being in this manner obliged to ſubſcribe thoſe terms, the ſhopkeeper in ſelf defence lays on an extra profit, and thus people of faſhion ſubmit to an impoſition for which they have only to thank themſelves.

With all their conſequence and *hauteur*, however, the great can truckle and cringe willingly enough when they have any

point to carry. At a general election for example. Then dukes, lords, and tinkers are hey fellow well met. Then the tallow-chandler's wife is the countess's most kind and intimate friend. Then all is junketting and regaling. Hand-bills and advertisements are circulated about, that for flattery and meanness might shame the inventer of a nostrum. The hall and the saloon are thrown open, the lord of the manor walks a minuet with a taylor's daughter, and the lady of the mansion goes down a country dance with the cheesemonger.

X. Y.

Particulars of the Expofure of Children in China.

[From Barrow's Travels in China, lately published.]

MR. BARROW makes many remarks upon the well-known practice of the Chinese exposing their new-born children, which is tolerated by custom, and tacitly encouraged by the government. The police employ persons to go about the city with carts early in the morning, to collect infants thrown out in the night. The bodies are carried to a common pit without the city walls, into which the living and dead are said to be promiscuously thrown. At this horrible pit, the roman catholic missionaries attend to save the most lively to make future proselytes, and baptize those not quite dead, *pour leur fauver l'ame.* (To save their souls.) Dogs and swine being let loose in the streets, dreadful catastrophes must sometimes happen to the infants before taken away. The number of children exposed is calculated at 24 daily, or about 9000 a year for Pekin only, which is supposed to equal the rest of the empire. In remarking upon this subject, Mr. Barrow relates the following anecdote.

"A respectable French missionary, now in London, who was many years in Fo-kien, told me that he once happened to call on one of his converts just at the moment his wife was brought to bed. The devoted infant was delivered to the father in order to be plunged into a jar of water that was prepared for the purpose. The missionary expostulated with the man on the heinousness of an act that was a crime against God and nature. The man persisted that, having already more than he could support, it would be a greater crime to preserve a life condemned to want and misery, than to take it away without pain. The missionary, finding that no argument of his was likely to divert him from his purpose, observed, "that, as a christian, he could not refuse him the satisfaction of saving the infant's soul by baptism." During the ceremony, as the father held the infant in his arms he happened to fix his eyes on its face, when the missionary thought he perceived the feelings of nature begin to work; and he protracted

tracted the ceremony to give time for the latent ſpark of parental affection to kindle into flame. When the ceremony was ended; "Now," ſays the miſſionary, "I have done my duty in ſaving a ſoul from periſhing." "And I," rejoined the man, "will do mine by ſaving its life," and hurried away with the infant to depoſit it in the boſom of its mother.

"It is right to mention here (what however is no palliation of the crime, though a diminution of the extent of it) a circumſtance which I do not recollect to have ſeen noticed by any author, and the truth of which I have too good authority to call in queſtion. As every corpſe great and ſmall muſt be carried to a place of burial at a conſiderable diſtance without the city, and as cuſtom requires that all funerals ſhould be conducted with very heavy expences, people in Pekin, even thoſe in comfortable circumſtances, make no heſitation in laying in baſkets ſtillborn children, or infants who may die the firſt month, knowing that they will be taken up by the police. This being the caſe, we may eaſily conceive that, in a city ſaid to contain three millions of people, a great proportion of the 9000, which we have ſuppoſed to be annually expoſed, may be of the above deſcription. According to the rules of political arithmetic, and ſuppoſing half of thoſe who died to be expoſed, the number would be diminiſhed to about 4000. The expence attending a Chineſe funeral is more extravagant than an European can well conceive. A rich Hong merchant at Canton is known to have kept his mother near twelve months above ground, becauſe it was not convenient for him to bury her in a manner ſuitable to his ſuppoſed wealth and ſtation.

"I am informed alſo that foundling hoſpitals do exiſt in China, but that they are on a ſmall ſcale, being raiſed and ſupported by donations of individuals, and their continuance is therefore as precarious as the wealth of their charitable founders."

Intereſting Narrative relative to thoſe celebrated but unfortunate Circumnavigators, Captains Flindell and La Peyrouſe.

[From the Compiler, a French Newſpaper.]

Dunkirk, 29th Prairial, An. 12.

IT is a long time ſince they have endeavoured to amuſe us with the vain hope of again ſeeing the unfortunate La Peyrouſe. Every year has given birth to a number of different reports, and almoſt all contradictory, which would bring back to life this illuſtrious navigator. The general intereſt that he has inſpired,

and our natural propenſity to believe eaſily what we wiſh, have hitherto induced us to give ſome credit to reports, as vague as they are frequently renewed.

An article inſerted in The Journal of the 25th Prairial laſt gives the following account:

"Some letters from Montevicho ſtate, that the captain of a veſſel, then in the river De La Plata, declared he had ſeen at the Cape of Good Hope the celebrated La Peyrouſe, who had arrived there a ſhort time before with nineteen of his companions, in a bark conſtructed by themſelves, from an unknown and deſart country, upon which they had been caſt."

Taking all probabilities into conſideration, the navigator that the Spaniſh captain had ſeen at the Cape of Good Hope, was not M. De La Peyrouſe, but a Captain Flinders, an Engliſh voyager, almoſt as unfortunate as our celebrated French one.

He had been appointed by the admiralty to ſail round the world, for the purpoſe of obtaining a more perfect knowledge of geography and natural hiſtory. With this view he left England in the month of July, 1801, with the ſhips Inveſtigator and Lady Nelſon. He touched at the Madeiras and the Cape of Good Hope, from whence he directed his courſe towards that ſouth-weſt part of New Holland, called by geographers Lewin's Land. He viſited and took the moſt circumſtantial obſervations of the ſouth coaſt called Nuyts Land, which had been before explored by Rear-admiral d'Entrecaſteaux. It was on the ſouth-weſt ſide, not before viſited by other navigators, that he met, in April, 1802, Captain Baudin, who, in the corvette Le Geographe, was then making diſcoveries in that part of the world. Captain Flinders, by one of thoſe accidents which has given his life ſo ſtrong a reſemblance to the unfortunate La Peyrouſe, loſt, at the entrance of a port he had diſcovered, a canoe which upſet, by which the crew, to the number of ten, were drowned. He afterwards croſſed the ſtrait De Baſſe, which ſeparates New Holland from Van Diemen's land, and put into Port Jackſon, a colony founded by the Engliſh in 1788, at the very time that the unfortunate La Peyrouſe arrived at Botany Bay, which was only three leagues diſtant.

Leaving this colony, Captain Flinders directed his rout along the eaſt coaſt of New Holland, diſcovered and viſited by the celebrated Captain Cook, whoſe reſearches he propoſed to complete, principally that famous part of the coaſt to which the banks, rocks, and innumerable reefs, by which it is interſected, cauſed him to give it the name of the Labyrinth, a place which will ever call to mind the cool intrepidity of Captain Cook; and Captain Flinders, animated with the ſame courage of his illuſtrious predeceſſor, did not fear to expoſe himſelf to the ſame dangers.

After

After having experienced a number of accidents, and being frequently at the point of periſhing, he arrived at the entrance of Endeavour Straits, which, however, he was obliged to abandon, and put back to Port Jackſon, to preſerve the Lady Nelſon, who could no longer keep the ſeas, and who arrived in ſuch a ſhattered condition, and in ſuch a total want of neceſſaries, that the crew were obliged to make a wooden anchor to moor her.

Without being diſcouraged by ſo many dangers, he undertook to explore the Gulph of Carpentaria, of which, from the time of its firſt diſcovery, 180 years before, we had but a vague knowledge. It was in this perilous ſituation that he undertook to give an account of the dreadful dangers to which his intrepidity had expoſed him, and in this he diſplays an energy and coolneſs which ſo peculiarly belong to ſeamen to achieve. However, his varied veſſel, broken by frequent ſhocks, and ſpringing leaks on all ſides, warned him that he could no longer, without expoſing himſelf to certain danger, continue his hazardous enterpriſe. He now ſaw himſelf forced to abandon the coaſt of New Holland, and after having taken in freſh proviſions at the Iſle of Tamor, he again ran the track of 1300 leagues, to return to Port Jackſon, to requeſt aſſiſtance, and a new ſhip. He there met with the reception which he ſo well merited, he changed his veſſel: and after ſome time he again ſet out, without being affrighted at the dangers he had already run, or the proſpect of thoſe he had yet to encounter; but his misfortunes were not ended. A few days after his departure from Port Jackſon, he ſtruck ſuddenly on one of thoſe innumerable ſand banks, which are ſo often to be met with in thoſe dangerous ſeas, and of which the moſt part are as yet unknown. His veſſel was daſhed to pieces; but he had the good fortune to ſave the greater part of his crew on the bank, which the ſea had left dry. He himſelf embarked in his ſhallop to gain Port Jackſon, then diſtant 200 leagues. He arrived there happily, though overwhelmed with miſery and fatigue, and haſtened to ſend the aſſiſtance neceſſary to ſave the remainder of the ſhipwrecked ſufferers.

The colony of Port Jackſon was not in a ſtate to furniſh him with neceſſaries ſufficient for the continuance of an expedition of diſcovery, and he reſolved to return to England, to repreſent to the admiralty his misfortunes, his courage, and the valuable reſult of his firſt labours, and embarked in the month of September, with nine of his wretched companions, in the Cumberland ſchooner, a little veſſel of 29 tons. In this frail bark he dared the immenſe ocean which ſeparated him from Europe. He put into the Iſle of France, which lay in his track, to take in water and proviſions. Being ignorant of the declaration of war between the two powers, he hoiſted an Engliſh flag, but on his arrival in port he was arreſted. Some ſecret articles in his inſtructions

ſtructions gave cauſe of ſuſpicion to General Decaen, governor of the colony, who believed at firſt it was his duty to detain him priſoner; however, the paſſports which he had obtained from the French government, as well as all other nations, and the nature of his expedition, which could not fail to intereſt all civiliſed people, prevented any further detention.

According to appearances, Captain Flinders arrived at the Cape of Good Hope a few minutes before the Spaniſh captain ſailed. Thoſe who are deceived by the reſemblance of the circumſtances, could have no doubt that the ſhipwrecked navigator, who arrived in ſuch a frail bark, was no other than the unfortunate La Peyrouſe. His report ſtates that he had quitted the Cape a little after the arrival of the bark. He had then but little time to gain a perfect knowledge of the exact details of thoſe adventurers, and particularly the name of the captain, whom, certainly, he had not ſeen, and whom he merely ſuppoſed, from the different reports which had been circulated, to be the French navigator.

Of the unhappy La Peyrouſe, no doubts remain, ſince for a long time all hope of ſeeing him, or even being informed of the circumſtances of his fate, is taken from us; but according to appearances, he muſt have periſhed, as the Engliſh navigator was near doing, on one of thoſe great banks in that dangerous ſea, to the north-eaſt of Botany Bay. In a dark night his ſhips, which he always navigated to the higheſt latitudes he could poſſibly reach, found themſelves entangled in reefs, and have both experienced the ſame fate, men and veſſels; all were loſt.

If any one of thoſe unfortunate men who compoſed his crew had eſcaped death, it is ſcarcely poſſible to doubt, that ere this he had reached ſome civilized region.

How many examples have we of immenſe voyages being undertaken in the moſt fragile barks by ſhipwrecked mariners; their numbers prevent occaſion to particulariſe any. Some have ſuppoſed that La Peyrouſe, after ſeeing his veſſel daſhed to pieces, had himſelf remained priſoner amongſt the ſavages of an unknown country; others, that he languiſhes on ſome deſart ſhore, without the means of reaching any inhabited iſland; and others, that he has periſhed in the Endeavour Straits, or rather in the Straits of Torres, on ſome of thoſe dangerous rocks which had been ſo fatal to the Engliſh frigate the Pandora. Theſe different aſſertions, however, are all falſe.

The courſe laid down by La Peyrouſe himſelf, in his laſt letter, written from Botany Bay to the miniſter of marine, announcing his intention of ſteering for the Iſle of France, is a certain guide to us. He propoſed, after having completed his obſervations amongſt the Friendly Iſlands, to return round to the weſt by viſiting the land of St. Eſprit, New Caledonia, the Ad-

miralty Iſles, Louiſiana, and the middle part of New Guinea, and then to paſs on to Endeavour Straits.

Since 1788, all theſe iſlands have been viſited frequently by different navigators, without any one of them having been able to diſcover any traces of him, which might eaſily have been proved either by the memorandums of his voyage which he left at each place he touched at, by thoſe articles of French manufactory which he bartered, or even by ſtores extant amongſt theſe iſlanders, among whom he muſt have for a time remained.

In 1791, M. D'Entrecaſteaux was eſpecially commanded by the national aſſembly to go upon an expedition, the only purpoſe of which was to ſeek La Peyrouſe in thoſe places in which it is now ſuppoſed he periſhed; and he faithfully followed the track laid down by that unfortunate man, without obtaining any indication of his paſſage. Thoſe ſeas are now ſo well known, that nothing more remains, however inconſiderable, to be diſcovered.

We may then look upon it as certain, that La Peyrouſe periſhed before he could reach any inhabited ſhore. Since the foundation of the Engliſh colony at Port Jackſon, many veſſels have ſailed from thence to China, and the eaſtward, and there have not been any who did not meet with thoſe breaks and rocks till then unknown, and ſo much the more dangerous, as they, believing themſelves to be in an open and ſafe ſea, ſuddenly found that they were in the midſt of the greateſt perils. The names of the reefs of Supply, of Middleton, of Lord Howe, of Brampton, the Pandora, &c. and many others, ſcattered in that fatal ocean, and diſcovered in late years, are ſufficient to convince us.

We can attribute to no other cauſe the loſs of ſo many commercial navigators, who, as well as La Peyrouſe, have diſappeared, without ever having been heard of more. We can then no more flatter ourſelves with the expectation of ſeeing amongſt us that illuſtrious man; and Europe hath for a long time paid the tribute of praiſe and admiration ſo juſtly due to his memory. It is enough for the glory of La Peyrouſe, that he has attracted the attention and general intereſt of all nations, and has adorned his country by his diſcoveries and his labours.—Salutation and conſideration.

Mr. Juſtice Hardinge's Charge to the Grand Jury at Brecon Seſſions.

YOUR public ſpirit has erected ſuch a barrier in this county againſt the menaced invaſion of the iſland, that you could ſpare detachments of your force to your neighbours upon the coaſt,

coaſt, if they ſhould be endangered, aware, as I am ſure you will ever be, that in this great conflict your neighbour is yourſelf. It may be affirmed, that ſince Britain has made the figure in a living map of the world, there has exiſted no ſuch trial of that good ſenſe, which is the moſt prominent feature of Britiſh character. The ſubjects of this iſland have been challenged by the public voice of a common danger, to give us all the advantages of a military government, without peril of that military deſpotiſm, which is the new ſtyle of liberty in France; and with as little fear of that mutiny in battle-array, which has been overcome in the ſiſter iſland, but after a deſperate convulſion of its principles, without prejudice to political ſubordination or individual rights. Not a feather has been touched that freedom could wiſh for to retain at a moment like this; not a power is impaired or withheld, that ſober and legitimate government could wiſh to enjoy.

Diſdaining to aſk who are the inſtruments of the executive power, and who are their adverſaries: at a loſs to aſcertain the policy or the ſenſe of the legiſlature in its minute and ſubordinate arrangements, you have looked ſtrait forward at the main object, which is a determined ſupport of the national independence, and of your own perſonal honour. Continue to be upon the alert, and it becomes an idle problem of ſpeculative curioſity, whether he who has trampled upon all the reſt of the world, ſhall dare to ſet his foot upon this land or no. The ſuſpended effort muſt expoſe his military fame to a contempt which his new titles (of aggrandizement and of murder) will rather inflame than diſarm. Let him come! it is the knell of his ambition —the forlorn hope of his implacable averſion to the nobleſt creatures that ever animated public virtue—the inhabitants of Great Britain, who reſemble the conſtitution they love, and are prompted by its genius to renovate by their example the liberties of Europe. Let him come! and we have ſoldiers for him, who will be jealous of the fame achieved by the heroes of the campaign in Egypt. We have ſailors who emulate the gallant admiral* before me, a man who ſerves his country at this hour by his naval character, though he enjoys a dignified repoſe under his laurels, with a perſonal eſtimation, as much beloved as it is admired."

*Admiral Gell.

REFLECTION.

FIRMNESS of mind will enable a man to overcome difficulties which a timid mind would conſider as unconquerable.

Bon Mots of the late R.O. Cambridge, Esq. related by his Son.

A Note from Mr. Moore, the conductor of "The World," requesting an essay, was put into my father's hands on a Sunday morning as he was going to church; my mother observing him rather inattentive during the sermon, whispered him, "What are you thinking of?" My father's reply was, "*Of the next World*, my dear."

I cannot help mentioning another instance of the same species of pleasantry. In one of his rides, late in life, he was met by his majesty (King George III.) on the declivity of Richmond-hill, in Surrey, who, with his accustomed condescension, stopped and conversed with him, and observing that he did not ride so fast as he used to do, my father replied to the king, "*Sir, I am going down hill.*"

Election Anecdote of that great and constitutional Judge, Lord Chief Justice Holt.

IN the reign of Queen Ann, in 1704, several freemen of the borough of Aylesbury had been refused the liberty to vote at an election for a member of parliament, though they proved their qualifications. The law in this case imposes a fine of 100l. for every such offence on the returning officers. On this principle they applied to Lord Chief Justice Holt, who desired the officer to be arrested.

The house of commons, alarmed at this step, made an order of their house, to make it penal for either judge, counsel, or attorney, to assist at the trial. However, the lord chief justice, and several lawyers, were hardy enough to oppose this order, and brought it on in the court of King's Bench. The house, highly irritated at this contempt of their order, sent a serjeant at arms for the judge to appear before them; but that resolute defender of the laws bade him, with a voice of authority, "Begone!" On this they sent a second message by their speaker, attended by as many members as espoused the measure.

After the speaker had delivered his message, his lordship replied to him in the following remarkable words: "Go back to your chair, Mr. Speaker, within these five minutes, or, depend on it, I'll send you to Newgate. You speak of your authority—but I tell you I sit here as the interpreter of the laws, and a distributor of justice; and, were the whole house of commons in your belly, I will not stir one foot."

The speaker was prudent enough to retire, and the house equally prudent to let the affair drop.

Anſwer, by A. Kyne, Jun. of Dartmouth, to P. Gove's Enigma, inſerted June 25.

THE daiſy, pink, and beauteous ROSE diſpenſe
Fragrance that cannot fail to pleaſe the ſenſe.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. Whittle, of Upway; J. E. and W. Bickham, jun. of Aſhburton; T. Rutger, of Clowance; William Strong, and R. Holwell, of Exeter; W. Trenchard, of Everſhot; T. Jarvis, of Malborough; J. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; and W. Gregory, of Tamerton.

Anſwer, by R. E. Reynolds, Jun. of Yeovil, to T. Rutger's Rebus, inſerted July 2.

ALL hail, ſweet PEACE! O let thy influence ſmile,
Be thou our guardian, this thy favourite iſle.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. Ninnis, of St. Auſtell; G. Hann, jun of Stoke Abbot; W. Bickham, jun. J. E. and R. Mudge, of Aſhburton; T. Jarvis, of Malborough; R. Holwell, W. Commins, Thomas Whicker, P. Gove, and John Squance, of Exeter; A. Kyne, jun. of Dartmouth; J. Whittle, of Upway; Primroſe, of Taunton; G. Coulman, of Broadhempſton; G. England; J. Waldron, of Lyme Regis; W. Gifford, of South Petherton; and Inamoratus, of Aſhburton.

A REBUS, *by G Holland, of Stoke Abbot.*

TAKE half a town in Lincolnſhire;
And next a colour make appear:
Both parts cemented will explain
A king who did in England reign.

A REBUS, *by J. T. Symons, of Exeter.*

ONE half a place Cerberus guards;
Next half a ſound that joy retards:
Theſe ſimple parts you'll quickly find
Will a fam'd goddeſs bring to mind.

A CHARADE, *by Inamoratus, of Aſhburton.*

FROM my firſt, on yonder mountain,
What a proſpect ſtrikes the eye!
Hill and valley, rill and fountain,
All with charms delightful vie.

What is art compar'd to nature?
Faint reſemblance, weak and low.
Vain deluſion every feature,
Like my ſecond all her glow.

Where rich Ex in pride meanders,
Lies my dear delightful whole:
There young fancy often wanders
With the darling of my ſoul.

☞ *Anglicus has ſpirit, but no ſkill.*

*** *The addreſs to a Corniſh company of volunteers is well-meant, but has very little poetical merit. Several other communications are in a ſimilar predicament.*

POETRY.

For the Weekly Entertainer.

Imitation of Monſieur des Barreaux's admirable French Hymn, beginning "Grand Dieu les Jugements."

GREAT GOD! how juſt thy judgments are!
How boundleſs is thy love!
And all the daily gifts we ſhare,
Thy lib'ral kindneſs prove.

But I, unworthy, mean, and baſe,
So oft have injur'd thee;
Should'ſt thou grant *me* thy pard'ning grace,
Where would thy juſtice be?

Yes, Lord! my every impious deed,
Cries out for wrath divine;
Nor can e'en mercy ever plead,
For crimes ſo vile as mine.

Thine injur'd glory bids "thee drive
"The rebel from thy throne;"
While tears, which I from ſhame derive,
But urge thy fury down.

Then let thy dreadful thunders roar,
Let *here* dire vengeance ſmite;
Still, while I periſh I'll adore,
And own thy judgments right.

Yet can thy vengeance ſtrike, O God!
Can thunders round me roll?
Since Chriſt hath bath'd me in his blood,
To ſhield my guilty ſoul.

Poole, Auguſt 4, 1804.

ODE TO FANCY.

By the late Dr. GLASSE.

TO black deſpair I bid adieu,
And pale foreboding care;
For fancy bids the gloom retire,
And brighteſt ſcenes appear.

High on her rapid wing I mount,
And fly from pole to pole;
Undaunted ſcan a thouſand worlds,
Thro' boundleſs ſpace that roll.

E'en ſmiling hope, that ſoothes our cares,
And gilds the cloud of woe,
Her pureſt luſtre muſt reſign
To fancy's brighter glow.

Hope's faireſt proſpects, ſudden fears
May wrap in midnight gloom,
But fancy's fields may ſtill be green,
Her flowers for ever bloom.

When ſullen winter chills the year,
And ſummer's ſmiles are fled,
When blaſted groves and wither'd fields
In ſnowy robes are clad.

Touch'd by her magic wand, again
The face of nature blooms;
Thro' fragrant groves ſoft zephyrs play,
And breathe their rich perfumes.

Pleas'd, on the banks of Rocknabad*,
Thro' jaſmine bowers I ſtray,
With Hafiz pluck the crimſon roſe,
And cull the tulip gay.

With him frequent the cooling ſhade,
Where faireſt nymphs retire;
Feel ev'ry tranſport of his heart,
And glow with all his fire.

With him I quaff the generous cup,
Where ruby'd nectar flows,
And to the purple-bluſhing wave
With him conſign my woes.

Thus fancy bids me ever ſmile,
And laugh at mortal cares,
Plucks from my breaſt the dart of grief,
And baniſhes my fears.

What tho' her joys be light as air,
And as a viſion fly?
Man's choiceſt bleſſings, few at beſt,
Scarce bloſſom ere they die.

Swift rolls the ſilent tide of time,
Which hurries us along,
And plunges in oblivion's flood
The buſieſt of the throng.

As clouds we riſe and diſappear,
The ſport of every gale,
And ſlipp'ry is the path we tread
Thro' life's contracted vale.

Then, fancy, let me ever fly
Where brighteſt proſpects riſe;
And when on earth the ſcene is dark,
O! waft me to the ſkies.

* Celebrated by the beautiful Perſian poet Hafiz.

HAR.

HARVEST MORNING.

By W. HOLLOWAY.

FAST on the hearth our ſkillet boils,
Pour up the milk, 'tis breakfaſt-hour;
High time that we begin our toils:
The ſun is up, and paſt the ſhow'r.
Hark! hear you not the reaper's ſong,
The dew-beſpangled lane along?

There! Sally calls! Sweet maid! I come!
Stay; let me take my little ſtore;
Bread, cheeſe, and apples, all the ſum
My wallet boaſts—I aſk no more:
Our maſter's flaggon yields us ſtill
Of cyder, or of ale, our fill.

The great folks all are yet a bed—
No window ope; no ſmoke I ſee;
With gouty feet, and heavy head;
Knew they my joys, they'd envy me!
Watch the firſt lark of morning riſe,
And hear him carol to the ſkies.

From exerciſe I gather health;
No nauſeous drugs my ſpirits need;
No cares have I for uſeleſs wealth;
Nor faſhions, or fine clothes, I need!
True bliſs the longeſt day beguiles,
Where Sally works, and ſings, and ſmiles.

EPIGRAM.

"HOW comes it," ſays a wealthy cit,
(Diſcourſing with a man of wit),
"That fortune doth ſo ſeldom ſhed
"Her favours on a poet's head,
"Whilſt ignorance throughout the land
"Walks with the goddeſs hand in hand?"

"Let not the matter cauſe ſurpriſe;
"'Tis thus," the muſes' ſon replies:
"Some time ago, but when or where,
"I know as little as I care,
"Fortune and Phœbus diſagreed,
"And mortals ſuffer by the deed;
"For when they viſit here below,
"Their diff'rent bounties to beſtow,
"Wherever one's arriv'd before,
"The other always ſhuns the door."

ON LOVE.

LOVE's no irregular deſire,
Which in a moment grows a fire,
And in a moment cools agrin:

Not found in the ſad ſonneteer,
That ſings of darts, deſpair, and chains;
And by whoſe diſmal verſe 'tis clear
He wants not heart alone, but brains.

Nor does it centre in the beau,
Who ſighs by rule, in order dies;
Whoſe all conſiſts in outward ſhew,
And want of wit by dreſs ſupplies.

No: love is ſomething ſo divine,
Deſcription would but make it leſs;
'Tis what I feel, but can't define;
'Tis what I know, but can't expreſs.

X. Y. Z.

ON HEALTH.

[From the Greek of Ariphron of Sicyon.]

WITH thee, blithe health, I wiſh to live;
Thy preſence truer joys will give,
Than all the bleſt on high:
Ne'er let me need thy influence kind,
But ſtill a willing inmate find,
To ſoften age's ſigh.

If Plutus ſhow'r an envied ſtore,
Or men your godlike ſway adore,
And children prove moſt kind;
If furtive love your boſom fire,
And Venus thrilling hopes inſpire,
That wake your inmoſt mind:

If greater bleſſings Jove beſtow,
And bounteous grant from worldly woe
Much intervening reſt:
With thee; celeſtial, all things pleaſe;
A ſpring perennial ſpreads its breeze:
Without thee none is bleſt.

DELIRIUM:

By Mrs. MONTOLIEU.

HEAR'ST thou yon ſcreams that rend the air?
Hark! 'tis the gipſey beats my child!
She drags her by her golden hair!
O! why thus hold me? Am I wild?
Now, even now, my babe expires;
Stripp'd, on the ground, to cold a prey;
Great God! haſt thou not tenfold fires
For her who tore my ſoul away?
Yes! from yon pale ſtar flaſhes riſe;
It was, it was my cherub ſmil'd;
I come—the frantic mother cries,
And flies to Heaven to ſeek her child.